## CLAIMS:

## What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for processing shared data comprising:
- 2 receiving a request to perform a task on shared
- 3 data;
- 4 creating a work item message for the task; and
- 5 publishing the work item message to a messaging
- 6 service.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the task is one of an
- 2 edit task and a locking task.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of
- 2 publishing the work item message comprises posting the
- 3 work item message to an edit topic.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the task is one of an
- 2 edit task and an unlocking task.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of
- 2 publishing the work item message comprises posting the
- 3 work item message to a transaction topic.
- 1 6. A method for processing shared data comprising:
- 2 receiving a work item message from a messaging
- 3 service;
- 4 processing the work item message; and
- 5 publishing a result to the messaging service.

- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving
- 2 a work item message comprises consuming a work item
- 3 message from an edit topic.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising placing
- 2 the work item message in an edit queue.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the work item message comprises:
- 3 determining whether the work item message was
- 4 created by a current server cluster node; and
- 5 performing a request task corresponding to the work
- 6 item message if the work item message was created by the
- 7 current server cluster node.
- 1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the work item message further comprises:
- 3 waiting until the work item message is removed from
- 4 the edit queue if the work item message was not created
- 5 by the current server cluster node.
- 1 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the work item message
- 2 comprises a locking request.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the work item message comprises locking a
- 3 portion of the shared data.

- 1 13. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving
- 2 a work item message comprises consuming a work item
- 3 message from a transaction topic.
- 1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the work item message comprises:
- 3 performing a request task corresponding to the work
- 4 item message on a clone of at least a portion of the
- 5 shared data.
- 1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the work item
- 2 message comprises an unlocking request.
- 1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the work item message comprises unlocking at
- 3 least a portion of the shared data.
- 1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the result comprises
- 2 a modified portion of the shared data.
- 1 18. A method for processing shared data comprising:
- 2 receiving a result from a messaging service;
- 3 processing the result; and
- 4 updating the shared data based on the result.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the result comprises modifying the shared data
- 3 in persistent storage.

- 1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein the step of
- 2 processing the result comprises updating the shared data
- 3 in memory.
- 1 21. An apparatus for processing shared data comprising:
- 2 receipt means for receiving a request to perform a
- 3 task on shared data;
- 4 creation means for creating a work item message for
- 5 the task; and
- 6 publication means for publishing the work item
- 7 message to a messaging service.
- 1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the task is one
- 2 of an edit task and a locking task.
- 1 23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the publication
- 2 means comprises means for posting the work item message
- 3 to an edit topic.
- 1 24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the task is one
- 2 of an edit task and an unlocking task.
- 1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the publication
- 2 means comprises means for posting the work item message
- 3 to a transaction topic.
- 1 26. An apparatus for processing shared data comprising:
- 2 receipt means for receiving a work item message from
- 3 a messaging service;

- 4 processing means for processing the work item
- 5 message; and
- 6 publication means for publishing a result to the
- 7 messaging service.
- 1 27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the receipt means
- 2 comprises means for consuming a work item message from an
- 3 edit topic.
- 1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising means
- 2 for placing the work item message in an edit queue.
- 1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processing
- 2 means comprises:
- means for determining whether the work item message
- 4 was created by a current server cluster node; and
- 5 means for performing a request task corresponding to
- 6 the work item message if the work item message was
- 7 created by the current server cluster node.
- 1 30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the processing
- 2 means further comprises:
- means for waiting until the work item message is
- 4 removed from the edit queue if the work item message was
- 5 not created by the current server cluster node.
- 1 31. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the work item
- 2 message comprises a locking request.

- 1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the processing
- 2 means comprises means for locking a portion of the shared
- 3 data.
- 1 33. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the receipt means
- 2 comprises means for consuming a work item message from a
- 3 transaction topic.
- 1 34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the processing
- 2 means comprises:
- means for performing a request task corresponding to
- 4 the work item message on a clone of at least a portion of
- 5 the shared data.
- 1 35. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the work item
- 2 message comprises an unlocking request.
- 1 36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processing
- 2 means comprises means for unlocking at least a portion of
- 3 the shared data.
- 1 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the result
- 2 comprises a modified portion of the shared data.
- 1 38. An apparatus for processing shared data comprising:
- 2 receipt means for receiving a result from a
- 3 messaging service;
- 4 processing means for processing the result; and
- 5 update means for updating the shared data based on
- 6 the result.

- 1 39. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the processing
- 2 means comprises means for modifying the shared data in
- 3 persistent storage.
- 1 40. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the processing
- 2 means comprises means for updating the shared data in
- 3 memory.
- 1 41. A computer program product, in a computer readable
- 2 medium, for processing shared data comprising:
- instructions for receiving a request to perform a
- 4 task on shared data;
- 5 instructions for creating a work item message for
- 6 the task; and
- 7 instructions for publishing the work item message to
- 8 a messaging service.
- 1 42. A computer program product, in a computer readable
- 2 medium, for processing shared data comprising:
- instructions for receiving a work item message from
- 4 a messaging service;
- instructions for processing the work item message;
- 6 and
- 7 instructions for publishing a result to the
- 8 messaging service.
- 1 43. A computer program product, in a computer readable
- 2 medium, for processing shared data comprising:

instructions for receiving a result from a messaging service;
instructions for processing the result; and instructions for updating the shared data based on the result.